

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, and 23-32 are pending in the present Application, and Claims 25, 30, and 31 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 have been canceled.

I. The 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejections based on the Suzuki ('605 Patent).

A central issue to be clarified herein is the meaning of the claim limitations: "density characteristic." The USPTO respectfully states that "intermittently in the literature" as the same meaning as "resolution of a printer." This is not the case in the art as explained below.

For clarification, applicant note U.S. Patent No. 5,625,384, to Numata issued on April 29, 1997. Numata's invention relates to controlling an ink jet printer which employs a replaceable head (cartridge type), and Numata discloses that replaceable heads are supplied by mass production, and hence variations in the characteristics of the individual heads (including the area, resistance and film structure of a heater board) occur during manufacture.

Numata proposes to make head load a ROM, carrying its own characteristics data for obtaining stable good quality image, so an inkjet printer corrects differences in the set drive conditions of the individual heads by using the ROM data. Following is a quotation from Numata:

"If such a correction is not conducted on each head, discharge characteristics, particularly, discharge speed, discharge direction (striking accuracy), discharge rate (density), discharge stability (refilling frequency, non-uniformity or wetting) cannot be optimized. Consequently, a stable image cannot be obtained or great deterioration in the image occurs due to discharge failure or twist generated during printing. Particularly, full color images are formed using four types of heads including cyan, magenta, yellow and black heads. Hence, the use of even a single head having a discharge rate or control characteristics different from the standard heads degrades the quality of printed images. Particularly, variations in the "discharge rate (density)" degrade color balance of the entire image and thus changes color tint or color reproducibility (increase color difference), degrading image quality. In a single color

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image, such as in black, red, blue or green, variations in the discharge rate vary the density. Variations in the control characteristics change half tone reproducibility."

As shown above, it is known that all printers, not only inkjet printers but others, have individual characteristics, for example, maximum density, minimum density, density gradation for color balance and halftone, color gamut consist of chromaticity, saturation and tint, γ for sharpness and so on, settled during manufacture. Numata's disclosure means adjusting printer characteristics to initial setting condition. And a user cannot change said initially settled characteristics, and such characteristics is commonly called "printer characteristics."

Commonly, users can change several print conditions such as a resolution, a highlight, a magnification, through personal computers using some printer interface software based on such individual printer characteristics; wherein resolution is not color density but dot density effective to the precision of printed image. For example, the resolution in Suzuki '605 is the dot density as shown in Fig. 4A.

Though users could change several print conditions through personal computers, users could not change print conditions of such printers having direct print function when connected, or communicated directly to a digital still camera. One embodiment of Suzuki '605 is to resolve such inconvenience. So the picture information of Suzuki '605 is such print conditions users can change.

In contrast, the purpose of the claimed present invention is to process a photographed image data by modifying printer "characteristic information" which cannot be changed by users, and to display the image adjusted to the printed image. See from page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 10 of the specification. Thus, there exists no such concept as in Suzuki '605.

In conclusion, the printer characteristic information of the present invention is not equivalent to the picture information of Suzuki '605. So the present invention is respectfully not anticipated by Suzuki '605. Therefore, as this rejection is traversed, the remaining independent claims are allowable and thus the dependent claims are also allowable.

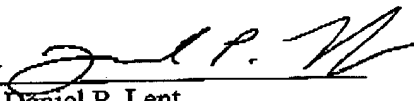
II. Conclusion.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully respond to the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please telephone the undersigned for any reason. Applicants respectfully endeavor to cooperate with the Examiner and to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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